



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending April 12, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.*

## SUMMARY

During the week ending April 12, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI, as reported by our Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments, did not change from the levels reported last week. Our Sentinel Labs and the State Lab both reported testing fewer specimens this week, however, the proportion of specimens testing positive increased for each. Fourteen influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported, which is similar to the 19 reported at this point last week. There was one outbreak of influenza. Nationally, while indicators continue to decline, some regions are seeing increases in activity due to influenza type B.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

### ILI Intensity Levels

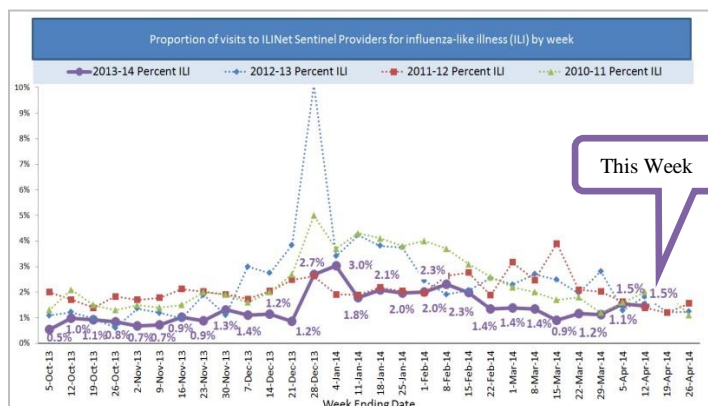
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

### Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

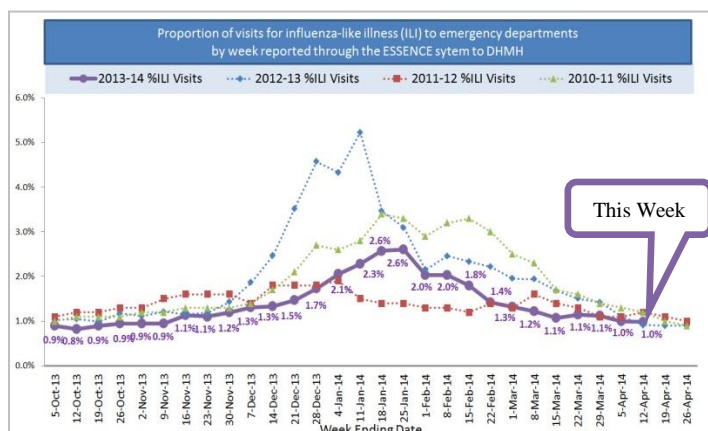
Fifteen sentinel providers reported a total of 8,906 visits this week. Of those, 131 (1.5%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	17 (13%)	20 (15%)	920 (24%)
Age 5-24	70 (53%)	48 (37%)	1520 (40%)
Age 25-49	32 (24%)	39 (30%)	1015 (26%)
Age 50-64	7 (5%)	18 (14%)	294 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	84 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	131 (100%)	130 (100%)	3833 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,893 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 439 (1.0%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	93 (21%)	93 (21%)	4205 (25%)
Age 5-24	140 (32%)	133 (31%)	4501 (26%)
Age 25-49	123 (28%)	120 (28%)	5557 (33%)
Age 50-64	53 (12%)	64 (15%)	1927 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	26 (6%)	21 (5%)	763 (4%)
Unknown	4 (1%)	3 (1%)	39 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	439 (100%)	434 (100%)	16992 (100%)

## Other states' influenza information:

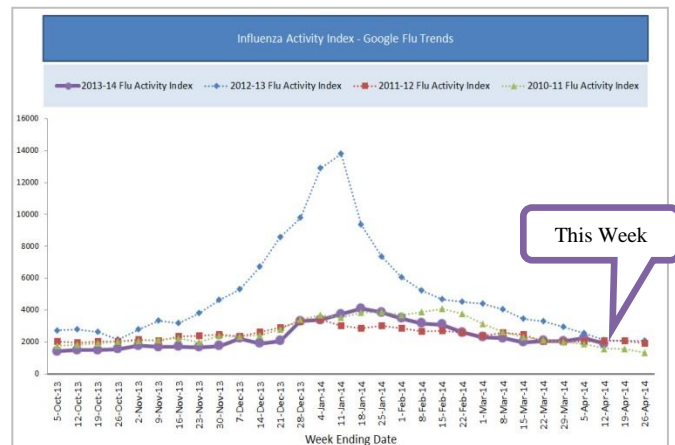
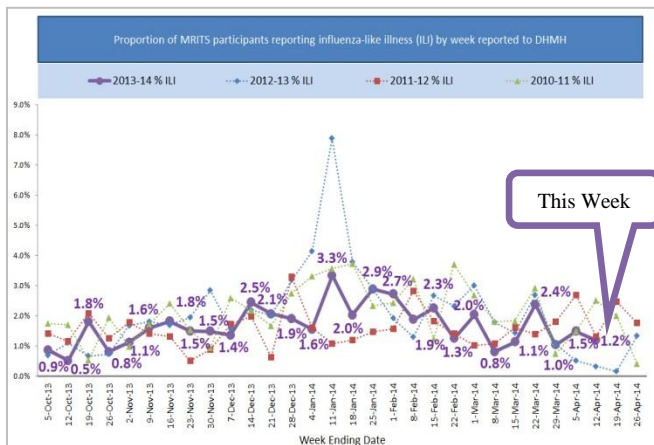
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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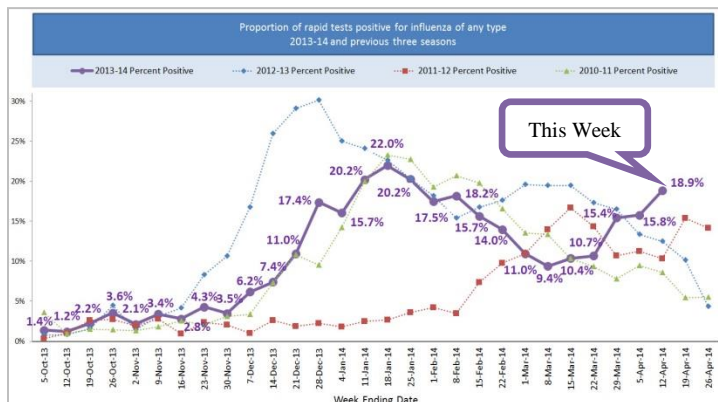
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 585 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 7 (1.2%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 19 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

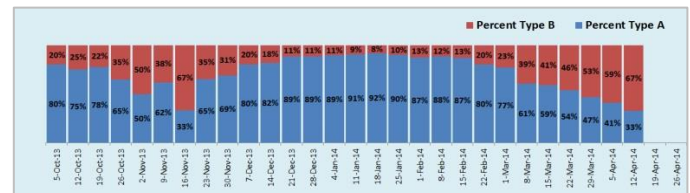


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty clinical laboratories reported performing 875 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 165 (18.9%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 54 (32.7%) were influenza Type A and 111 (67.3%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

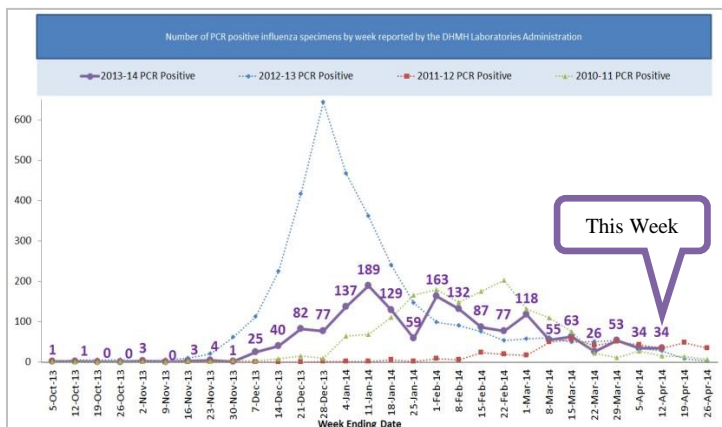


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	54 (33%)	68 (41%)	6681 (82%)
Type B	111 (67%)	98 (59%)	1504 (18%)
Total	165 (100%)	166 (100%)	8185 (100%)



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 83 PCR tests for influenza and 34 (41.0%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 10 (29.4%) were Type A (H1N1), 5 (14.7%) were type A (H3N2), and 19 (55.9%) were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	10 (29%)	8 (24%)	1417 (89%)
Type A (H3)	5 (15%)	4 (12%)	85 (5%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	19 (56%)	22 (65%)	92 (6%)
Total	34 (100%)	34 (100%)	1594 (100%)

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

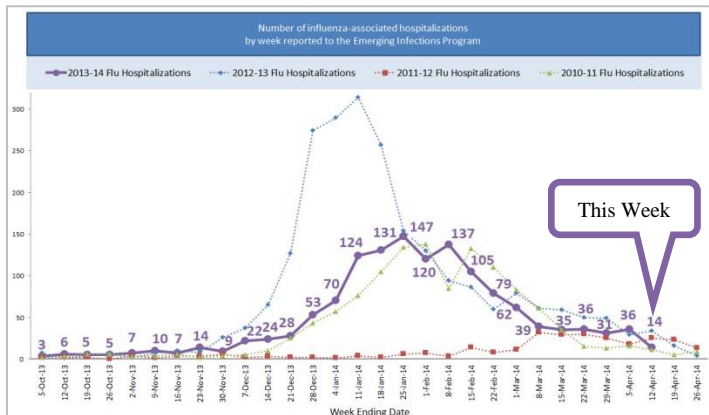
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

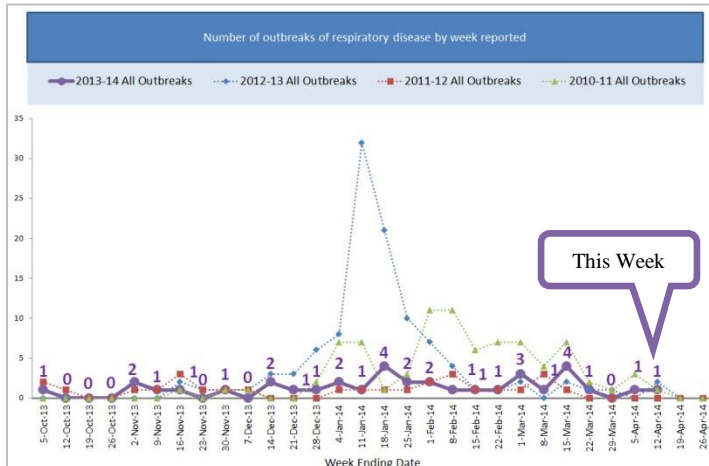
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported fourteen influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (7%)	2 (6%)	127 (9%)
Age 5-17	1 (7%)	1 (3%)	58 (4%)
Age 18-24	2 (14%)	1 (3%)	47 (3%)
Age 25-49	3 (21%)	11 (31%)	354 (26%)
Age 50-64	4 (29%)	10 (28%)	411 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	3 (21%)	11 (31%)	362 (27%)
Total	14 (100%)	36 (100%)	1359 (100%)

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one outbreak of influenza reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	20 (57%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	8 (23%)
Pneumonia	--	--	7 (20%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	35 (100%)

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 4,653 specimens tested and reported during week 15 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 675 (14.5%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 33.2 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.5%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. Two of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Three states and New York City experienced moderate ILI activity; four states experienced low ILI activity; 43 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in six states was reported as widespread; Guam and four states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 14 states reported local influenza activity; 24 states reported sporadic influenza activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states reported no influenza activity.

